

WASHINGTON NEWS AND GOSSIP.

**Small Notes in the District of Columbia.**  
Mr. McMullin was mistaken, yesterday, in intimating to the House, in the course of the debate on the bill to suppress the circulation of small notes in this District, that public opinion is in favor of any such currency in this quarter. With the exception of those engaged in the business of circulating such notes, we are utterly unable to find a single individual in the District disposed to favor them. All arguments alleging that they are an accommodation, are mere *sol-de-rol*—originating with those who manufacture them, to quiet the public mind under their operations through them, for their individual benefit. They are made the vehicles for the most of that pestiferous currency, purporting to be payable in the notes of other localities, by which the business interests of the District of Columbia have been so severely injured within the last two or three years. We know that we but express the very unanimous wish of the people of the District of Columbia in urging Congress to be sure to legislate on this subject, so that those who issue notes in the District of Columbia of any denomination under five dollars, or who issue notes of any denomination whatever, payable in anything but gold or silver, may be made amenable by summary process before a justice of the peace in the amount each such note calls for—one-half the said fine to go to the informer, the justice and officer to get costs, and the balance to go into the treasury of the municipal corporations. While we are no advocates for depriving the District of Columbia of good banks of circulation, and entertain no idea that in 1884 any such legislation will be enacted by Congress, we do hope and trust that those on whom rests the responsibility for all the chicanery, under the name of banking, which has gone on here of late years—Congress will be thoughtful enough in disposing of the "small note bill" to do their work effectually. The Government pays out millions here, annually, in specie for salaries and the wages of other labor—millions on millions. So there is no other point in the country whereat notes of less denomination than five dollars are really so little needed.

**The District Penitentiary.**—Herewith we publish a communication from some one unknown to us upon the subject of the salaries paid to the employees in the Penitentiary of the District of Columbia. We take this occasion to say that the guards of this establishment are certainly underpaid. Their duties involve great responsibility, and require for their proper discharge men who are in all respects trustworthy. We have also to say, that those now in that position have proved themselves competent and trustworthy. They receive \$530 each, per annum. In the last twelve months they have each of them been required to do five hundred days' work, calculating the length of the day's duty at the usual number of working hours required of mechanics employed in our city. Thus they must do five hundred instead of three hundred days' work in the year. We trust that Congress will take their case into consideration. They deserve what we ask for them, clearly. We publish the communication to which we refer above, without further comments:

**Messrs. Editors:** Though I have not the slightest pecuniary interest in the matter, I desire, through the medium of your paper, respectfully to call the attention of Congress to a subject which, it seems to me, should claim their special and early attention, viz: the arduous duties and inadequate compensation of the officers of the United States penitentiary. While the salaries of nearly all the Government employees within the District have very properly been considerably increased, in view of the increased expense of living, these persons, whose labors in point of severity and danger are not surpassed, have as yet received no attention.

The warden, who, I believe, is not permitted to absent himself from the prison twenty-four hours at any one time, receives but \$1,500 per annum. Few, I apprehend, would be willing to make the sacrifices that he makes, and expose their lives as he does, for such a compensation. The duties of the clerk are difficult, and require experience and ability—salary \$1,000. The deputy warden and principal in the shoe shop receive a salary of only \$750 each. There are six guards, with a salary of \$550 each, who are required to be on duty from the rising to the setting of the sun; and it is frequently the case that they have to continue the same way during the night. Three inspectors have a nominal salary of \$100; while an experienced and skillful physician gives his services for \$500. The chaplain, who has to walk upwards of four miles or furnish his own conveyance, and performs labor nearly equal to preaching twice every Sabbath, besides what he has occasionally to perform through the week, is allowed only \$250, which is certainly a salary only in name. The salaries in general are not one-half, and some of them not more than one-quarter, enough to support respectably the officers and their families.

Will not Congress, therefore, look at this matter, and extend to these more humble but not less meritorious employees of the Government the same justice they have to others?

**The Auxiliary Guard.**—The favorable action of the House yesterday on the bill to increase the compensation of the Auxiliary Guard of Washington City to \$600, is exceedingly gratifying to our fellow-citizens generally, who know well that those officers are required to labor very hard—to be up all night, every night in the year, and discharge their duties with fidelity, giving satisfaction to all interested in the peace and well being of our city. There never was a case wherein men holding such positions were better entitled to the compensation proposed to be accorded to them by the bill in question.

**The New York Assay Office.**—We understand that Wall street is highly gratified with the act of the Secretary of the Treasury, in furnishing the assay office in New York with drafts on the Sub-Treasury sufficient to meet all possible demands for specie, in exchange for bullion deposited while active operations were recently suspended temporarily for the settlement of accounts. They have at the assay office some three millions on hand, which will prove amply sufficient to afford coin for all bullion likely shortly to be presented for assay and exchange.

**Light House Keeper Appointed.**—Joshua K. Pitman at Brenton's Reef light-boat, B. I., at \$700 per annum, vice Dunn, removed. Chas. Grant at Rattlesnake Shoals light-boat, S. C., at \$700 per annum.

**The anti Small Note Bill.**—It was determined in the House, as we go to press, to pass this bill substantially as it came from the Senate.

**A Pension Agent Resigned.**—R. W. Latham, Pension Agent at this point, has resigned.

**List of Patents Issued from the United States Patent Office, for the week ending Dec. 19, 1884.**—each bearing that date:

Charles P. Bailey, of Zanesville, Ohio.—For feeding apparatus to a machine for cutting irregular forms.

Samuel W. Brown, of Lowell, Mass.—For improvement in condensers.

Thomas J. Chubb, of New York, N. Y.—For improvement in metal separators.

Major B. Clarke, of Newnan, Ga.—For improvement in cleaning seed cotton and feeding it to the gin.

David W. Clark and Sylvester H. Gray, of Bridgeport, Conn.—For double acting force pump.

George J. Crandall, of Boston, Mass.—For improvement in oilge supporters for holding vessels in docks.

Daniel Fitzgerald, Thomas Rogers, and William C. Walker, of New York, N. Y.—For improvement in guards for ferry boats.

Jno. S. Gage, of Dowagiac, Mich.—For improvement in clover harvesters.

Geo. W. Grader and Benj. F. Cowan, of Memphis, Tenn.—For improvement in grain mills.

Stephen Hadley, Jr., of Lyman, N. H.—For direct action water-wheel.

Isaac B. Howe, of Northfield, Vt.—For improvement in machines for straightening heavy metal bars.

Wm. B. Leonard, of New York, N. Y.—For improvement in dynamometers.

Charles Merrill, of Malden, Mass.—For improvement in ash fasteners.

James Myers, Jr., of New York, N. Y.—For improvement in making sugar moulds.

George Reynolds, of Bangor, Me.—For improvement in coal-burners for tanning.

John P. Sherwood, of Fort Edward, N. Y.—For improvements in cut-nail machines.

Jonathan Smith, of Naponset Village, Mass.—For improved method of holding vessels by the keel in dry and other docks.

John J. Speed, Jr., and John A. Bailey, of Detroit, Mich.—For shingle machine.

Louis Stein, of New York, N. Y.—For improvement in revolving fans for apartments.

Samuel T. Tamm, of Indianapolis, Ind.—For improved design in machines for packing flour.

Nathan Thompson, Jr., of Williamsburgh, N. Y.—For improvement in life-preserver seats. Patented in England Sept. 18, 1884.

Grey Utley, of Chapel Hill, N. C.—For improvement in boot crimping machines.

Daniel P. Weeks, of Malden, Mass.—For improved oven cooking range.

Wendell Wright, of New York, N. Y.—For improvement in spring bed bottoms.

Robt. Griffith, of Allegheny City, Pa., and Geo. Shield, of Cincinnati, Ohio, assignors to Robt. Griffiths aforesaid.—For improvement in machines for forging horse-shoes.

Wm. F. Ketchum, of Buffalo, N. Y., assignor to Rufus L. Howard.—For improvement in grain and grass harvesters.

Elisha Pratt, of Salem, Mass., assignor to Elisha Pratt and H. P. Upton, of same place.—For improvement in leather splitting machines.

Milton Roberts, of Belfast, Me., assignor to Milton Roberts and Hiram E. Pierce, of same place.—For improved machine for turning prismatic forms.

Allen B. Wilson, of Watertown, Conn., assignor to W. P. N. Fitzgerald, of Washington, D. C.—For improvement in sewing machines.

**The Current Operations of the Treasury Department.**—On yesterday, the 19th of Dec, there were Treasury Warrants entered on the books of the Department—

For the redemption of stock.....	\$7,723 34
For payment of Treasury debts.....	7,216 06
For the Customs.....	15,775 19
For the War Department.....	32,730 44
For repaying in the War Department.....	30,025 54
For the Navy Department.....	119,951 33
For the Interior Department.....	91,362 68

**CONGRESSIONAL.**  
In the Senate, yesterday, after we went to press, Mr. Brown introduced the following new joint rule, which, having been advocated in a few remarks by himself, was referred to the special committee on the claims board proposition:

There shall be appointed a standing committee of the Senate, to consist of seven members, and one of the House of Representatives, to consist of thirteen members, to be called in each House "the general committee on claims." It shall be the duty of said committee in the House of Representatives to report a bill at each session of Congress making appropriations for the payment of private claims. When the several committees of the House report in favor of any claim, the report, with the evidence on which it is based, shall be referred, without debate, and as a matter of privilege, to the said general committee on claims; and if that committee, after due examination, concur in said report, they shall insert an item for the payment of said claim in the bill for the payment of private claims, and thereupon submit the report and evidence to the House, to be printed or otherwise disposed of as the House may direct. When the bill aforesaid is reported from the House to the Senate, it shall be forthwith referred to the general committee on claims in the Senate, and they shall proceed to insert therein such items as may, in like manner in the Senate as in the House, have been reported from the several committees, and have received also the sanction of said general committee. The said bill, before its final passage in either House, shall be read by sections, and a separate vote taken upon each section or item; and this notwithstanding the previous action of the Senate on the bill for the payment of private claims shall have precedence over other bills next after the general appropriation bill.

And then, after the consideration of unimportant business, they adjourned.

In the House, the bill to amend the charter of Washington City was further discussed in Committee of the Whole.

Mr. Giddings moved to add to it a proviso that no person shall be imprisoned (in Washington City) unless charged with crime or offense; not agreed to—aye 35, noes not counted. This bill being laid aside to be reported back.

The bill to increase the compensation of the Auxiliary Guard to \$600; and the bill to incorporate the Mutual Fire Insurance Company in the District of Columbia, were considered and laid aside to be favorably reported on.

The committee then proceeded to consider the bill to suppress the circulation of small notes as a currency in the District of Columbia; which was discussed by Messrs. Hamilton, McMullin, Florence, Skelton, Letcher, Davis of Indiana, and Taylor of Ohio, ere they rose, when the House adjourned.

**Proceedings of To-Day.**  
In the Senate, to-day, the private bill from the House, for the relief of Mary Rutherford, was passed.

On motion of Mr. Bayard, the bill to secure the rights of citizenship to the children of American citizens born abroad was taken up and amended and duly passed.

Mr. Hunter then brought up the invalid pension bill.

Mr. Fessenden moved an amendment to the bill providing the widows and orphan children of officers, seamen, and marines of the Navy of the Revolution on the same footing, as regards pensions, with those of the widows and orphan children of officers and soldiers of the Revolutionary army.

This proposition was advocated by Senators Brown and Chase for it, and Hunter against it, on the ground that it was not appropriate to the bill before them.

In the House, Mr. Fuller moved a resolution instructing the Committee on Commerce to inquire into the necessity for legislation to protect the rights of American citizen purchasers of vessels of foreigners; agreed to.

Mr. Wadsworth, delegate from Kansas, appeared in the Hall, and was sworn in.

Several bills were presented and referred; among them being one for the working of a steam dredge on Lake Champlain.

The bills granting additional powers to the Corporation of Washington; increasing the compensation of the Auxiliary Guard; incorporating the Mutual Fire Insurance Company of the District of Columbia; and the bill authorizing the Washington Gas Light Company to increase its capital, were passed.

The House then went into Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union (Mr. Phelps in the chair), and took up the bill to suppress the circulation of small notes in the District of Columbia.

Amendments thereto were proposed, and advocated in five-minute speeches, by Messrs. Simmons, Grow, and Hughes, and opposed by Mr. Hamilton, who urged the enactment of the bill as it came from the Senate.

... Mr. John A. Washington, the proprietor of Mount Vernon, declines to sell the grave of Washington to the Virginia society of ladies who made overtures for the purchase of it. He declares himself unwilling that Mount Vernon should pass from his possession, unless to the State of Virginia or to the United States.

... Senator Atchison and Gen. Whitfield (delegate to Congress from Kansas Territory) were in Independence on the 9th instant, on their way to Washington.

... Mr. Nagle, a promising young actor, and a brother of the attentive assistant treasurer of the Broadway theatre, has been playing with Miss Julia Dean at the Charleston theatre. Miss Dean took her benefit at that place last Saturday, when she appeared as Mrs. Haller, and Mr. Nagle as the Stranger. They have both met with success at the South, and attracted overflowing audiences.

... Dr. Graham, who is in the Tombs in New York, is reported by the Express to be comfortable. He is daily visited by his wife and by members of the profession. Whether he will be pardoned or not is quite uncertain.

... General Whitfield, the newly elected delegate from Kansas, has arrived here. He looks like just the man to carry a new country by storm.

... The old and well known firm of Taylor & Cassily, of New Orleans and Cincinnati, has stopped payment. This is one of the oldest, and, heretofore, one of the most reliable firms in the West and Southwest, and is a forcible example of the effect of the "hard times."

**ALEXANDRIA CORRESPONDENCE.**  
*Christmas Times—Fires and Alarms—Sun Benefit—Bullard's Panorama—Lecture.*  
ALEXANDRIA, Dec. 20, 1884.

Things begin to look bright and Christmas like. Our fancy, jewelry, and confectionery establishments especially, are set off in the most tempting array.

Fire alarms have been quite numerous of late; most of them proceed from burning chimneys, &c.; but early on Sunday night a lurid light westerly from our city, gave token of a conflagration in that direction. Our ever active firemen, started, but it was soon discovered that the distance to the scene of action was too great for them to render service. The barn, hay stacks, &c., of Mr. Cowling, some five miles from our city, were totally destroyed, at a loss of nearly \$1,500; not insured.

An hour after the alarm again sounded; this time the fire was in our midst; some daring incendiary having applied the torch to a fine brick building on King street, near water, belonging to Mr. A. H. Buchner. Again our gallant firemen rushed to the rescue, and old Cameron soon quenched the devouring element, and danger was over. The loss of \$350 falls on the Insurance Company.

Monday evening the Sun Fire Company's benefit came off at Liberty Hall. The large audience were never more delighted as they must have been when Kunkel's Troupe did their best. Last night the same troupe made another audience merry at Liberty Hall.

This evening the splendid Panorama of New York and its people opened at Liberty Hall. This fine painting, which has been acquainted with New York prominence most faithful to the reality is over six miles in length, and delineates New York as it is. With the lecture of the gentleman that accompanies each scene with a description of its features, a visit to this Panorama is second only to a visit to the city.

Rev. Thomas H. Stockton, of Baltimore, opened the lectures of the Young Men's Christian Association, last night, at the South Presbyterian Church.

**KANSAS TERRITORIAL LEGISLATURE.**—The Independence (Mo.) Occidental Messenger of Dec. 9, says it has received pretty reliable information "that Gov. Reader would take the necessary steps toward ordering an election for a Territorial Legislature, in some ten or fifteen days."

Real estate continues to be sold in New York daily at auction, at ruinously low prices. A splendid dwelling house in the 5th avenue, 30th street—right in the centre of upper ten—was disposed of this week for \$3,000. Its actual cost two years since, was \$2,000.

**INCREASE OF PAUPERS.**—The whole number of paupers in the United States, supported in whole or in part by public funds, within the year 1883, was 134,972, against 50,353 in 1850.

**SCHOOL OF DESIGN.**—METROPOLITAN MECHANICAL INSTITUTE.—A regular course of instruction in the Mechanical Institute will be held THIS (Wednesday) EVENING, the 20th instant, at the Institute Rooms, over G. & T. Parker's Store, Pennsylvania avenue, at 7 1/2 o'clock.

Reports from the various sub-committees of the Exhibition Committee will be made in relation to the coming exhibit.

Persons desirous of becoming members, will have an opportunity of obtaining their tickets, which are \$1 each, from the committee of standing exhibition, lectures, and the School of Design, which will open on Thursday evening next.

The public are respectfully invited to attend.

**NOTICE.**—National Guard.—A postal notice to the General and Adjutant-General on WEDNESDAY EVENING, December 20th at 7 o'clock, at which every member is expected to be present as important business is to be transacted.

By order of the Captain: T. E. LLOYD, Sec.

**Capt. Oliver Byrne, Scientific Lecturer.**—Capt. Byrne will deliver a Lecture on the operations in the Crimea, and the influence of the present European War on the United States, FRIDAY EVENING, Dec. 23d, at Copp's Saloon, to commence at 8 o'clock. Tickets 25 cents each, to be had at the Hotel and Book stores, and at the door on the evening of the lecture.

**FAIR.**—The ladies attached to Union Farnham's Hall, corner of Eleventh street and Pennsylvania avenue, commencing on MONDAY, the 18th inst., a fair, which will be held to the benefit of the improvement of the above named hall.

A variety of useful articles will be offered for sale. Supper served every evening. Admission 12 1/2 cts. Season tickets \$1, to be had at the door.

**GRAND ANNUAL BALL OF THE GERMAN YAGERS.**

THE "GERMAN YAGERS" respectfully inform their friends, both civil and military, that their ANNUAL BALL will be given on MONDAY EVENING, January 1st, 1885, at CARUS'S SALOON.

Everything shall be done on the part of the company to give satisfaction, and the committee pledge themselves to do their part in every particular. No admission can be procured from the Committee, and at the door.

Price of tickets ONE DOLLAR & FIFTY CENTS. No hats to be worn in the ball room except by the military.

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**FIRE CRACKERS.**  
A lot just received of Golden Chop No. 1, forty packs to the box, for sale by the box only, at the store of the Canton Tea Company, No. 510 Seventh street. Prices low. Terms cash.

**FOR HIRE—A MIDDLE AGED WOMAN (slave)** with the best recommendations as to character, good washer and ironer. Apply at Miss Leno's, 17th street, immediately opposite War Department.

**ARTICLES OF UTILITY—CHRISTMAS PRESENTS.**—SERVENS, Browns' Hotel, has a fresh large and elegant assortment of Gent's Scarfs, Napkin Ties, Handkerchiefs, Cravats, Gloves, &c., of the best quality and latest importations. Persons making presents will find our a most complete, and of the best quality, and at the lowest prices.

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**PERSONAL.**  
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